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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 2 April 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my profound regret to inform you that the crisis situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate as a result of the escalating and widening bloody Israeli military assault against the Palestinian people and Palestinian leadership. As the Israeli assaults intensify, so have the human rights violations, war crimes and State terrorism being committed by the occupying forces against the Palestinian people.

In addition to the ongoing Israeli military siege and attacks on the city of Ramallah, including the continuing siege of President Yasser Arafat in his office, Israeli occupying forces yesterday and today entered and seized the cities of Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Tulkarem. In Bethlehem, the Israeli occupying forces have occupied positions just metres from Manger Square outside the Church of the Nativity. Further, in all of the cities under siege, the Israeli occupying forces, using heavy tank weaponry, helicopter gunships and machine gun fire, have been assaulting and killing Palestinians and destroying buildings and property belonging to the Palestinian Authority, particularly police and security facilities. These incessant Israeli attacks have also caused extensive damage and destruction to Palestinian homes and vital infrastructures, including hospitals. This Israeli reoccupation of Palestinian towns and cities has also involved house-to-house searches and round-ups of all Palestinian males, ranging from the ages of 15 to 50, and the abduction and detention of hundreds of them.

The humanitarian situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has declined to an appalling low level due to the depraved policies and practices of the occupying Power. In this regard, the Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out attacks in complete disregard for the welfare and safety of the Palestinian civilian population under occupation, deepening the already critical humanitarian situation. The number of dead and wounded Palestinians continues to steeply rise as a result of the incessant Israeli attacks each day. Further, the curfews imposed on Palestinian towns and cities have intensified the suffering of the Palestinian people,

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most of whom have been prevented from attending to even the most basic needs, such as procuring food and water. Severe restrictions on the freedom of movement have also been imposed by the occupying forces on international and humanitarian personnel attempting to assist the Palestinian people. Access to medical care has also been severely obstructed. This has included the continued practice by the occupying forces of preventing ambulances from reaching wounded Palestinians with the result that many have bled to death, including a mother and son shot and wounded by the Israeli forces in their home in Bethlehem today. Moreover, the Israeli occupying forces have even prevented the burial of some of the Palestinians that have been killed in Ramallah since the most recent Israeli siege and assault on that city began five days ago.

Furthermore, Ramallah as a whole has been declared a closed military zone by Israel, the occupying Power. Ramallah has even been closed to international journalists, preventing them from reporting on the situation in the city. Journalists have also been frequently harassed by the occupying forces and some have been killed. This is a clear indication of Israeli intentions to prevent media documentation of the illegal actions it is committing throughout Ramallah.

Addressing the latest developments, the Security Council adopted resolution 1402 (2002) on 30 March 2002, which remains today unimplemented. The Israeli side has conveyed several indications of its rejection of the resolution, including statements by Mr. Sharon that there would be no ceasefire from the Israeli side before the attainment of certain objectives. We stress the need for the immediate implemenation of all the provisions of resolution 1402 (2002), and we call upon the Security Council to take the necessary measures in this regard. The Arab Group at the United Nations has already requested an urgent meeting and an Arab draft resolution, calling for the immediate implementation of resolution 1402 (2002), has been introduced. We call upon the Council to immediately act in this regard.

At this stage, I wish to refer to the address by the Secretary-General to the Security Council yesterday, in which he applauded the Council for adopting resolution 1402 (2002) so swiftly and called upon the members of the Council, "collectively and individually — to act now to secure its implementation." We welcome the positions taken by the Secretary-General regarding the immediate implementation of resolution 1402 (2002), the need for a third-party presence and the need for a comprehensive approach that will deal with both the security and political dimensions of the situation. We call upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to support and adopt those positions as a way out of the current tragic situation.

In follow-up to my previous 111 letters to you regarding the crisis situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 29 March 2002 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-

S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118; A/ES-10/128-S/2001/1149; A/ES-10/129-S/2001/1166; A/ES-10/133-S/2001/1239; A/ES-10/134-S/2001/1261; A/ES-10/136-S/2002/18; A/ES-10/137-S/2002/39; A/ES-10/138-S/2002/48; A/ES-10/139-S/2002/58; A/ES-10/140-S/2002/89; A/ES-10/141-S/2002/95; A/ES-10/142-S/2002/102; A/ES-10/143-S/2002/121; A/ES-10/144-S/2002/142; A/ES-10/145-S/2002/146; A/ES-10/146-S/2002/165; A/ES-10/147-S/2002/175; A/ES-10/148-S/2002/182; A/ES-10/149-S/2002/186; A/ES-10/150-S/2002/214; A/ES-10/151-S/2002/223; A/ES-10/152-S/2002/232; A/ES-10/154-S/2002/242; A/ES-10/155-S/2002/248; A/ES-10/156-S/2002/249; A/ES-10/157-S/2002/253; A/ES-10/158-S/2002/258; A/ES-10/159-S/2002/281; A/ES-10/160-S/2002/307; A/ES-10/161-S/2002/319 and A/ES-10/162-S/2002/330). I regret to inform you that, since my last letter, many Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. Due to the current circumstances in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, we have been unable to compile a complete and accurate list of all the Palestinian martyrs that have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces in recent days. However, the annex to the present letter contains the names of the martyrs that have thus far been identified. The names of the other Palestinians that have been killed by the occupying forces will be conveyed once they are identified.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 2 April 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Friday, 29 March, to Tuesday, 2 April 2002)

Friday, 29 March 2002

1. Alaa Ali Draghma
2. Omar Abdelhamid Hamayel
3. Jad Eizzat Selim
4. Raed Mohammed Abdelhamid Al-Demeisy
5. Sarida Abu Gharbiya
6. Ahmed Mohammed Nayef Ikhzeeq
7. Ahmed Abdel Jawad

Saturday, 30 March 2002

1. Khaled Fathi Awadallah
2. Ismail Ibrahim Deeb
3. Abdelrahman Tawfiq Abdallah
4. Amr Mohammed Musa
5. Saeed Mohammed Abdelrahman Al-Hindi
6. Hussein Hosni Al-Ashqar
7. Shaher Abu Sharar
8. Nuha Ziyad Katee'a (8 years old)
9. Ahmed Ishaq Hamada

Sunday, 31 March 2002

1. Azzam Ajaj
2. Ahmed Fathi Ajaj
3. Marwan Rustum Mohammed Shwashny

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 1,197.

4. Murad Wafiq Awaisah
5. Nader Abdellatif Assad Awad
6. Jamal Mahmoud Abdel Salam
7. Sabah Abdelrahman Abdel Khatary

Tuesday, 2 April 2002

1. Samyal Abdeh
2. Khaled Abdeh